(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rate of Interest on Loans to States

913. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of interest on loan extended to States as 70 per cent of plan assistance and other Central loan continues to be 11.5 per cent:

(b) whether it was announced while presenting the 2002-03 Budget that the rate of interest against different loans to States would be reduced which was much appreciated by various States;

(c) if so, the reasons for not reducing the rate of interest on the above said loans; and

(d) by when the same would be reduced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The rate of interest of loan extended to States as 70 percent of plan assistance and other central loans had already been reduced from 12.00% to 11.50% and from 11.50% to 10.50% *w.e.f.* 1.4.2002 and 1.4.2003 respectively.

Loan Repayment Liability of States

914. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government realize that loan repayment liability of States